

16 November 2024

**Questions put to ABC:**

MW is looking at the global reporting of the Amsterdam soccer violence that occurred last weekend.

Part of that includes the ABC's 7pm story (Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov) which was criticised by Jan Fran this week [https://www.instagram.com/jan\\_\\_fran/reel/DCSv4gSy5x3/](https://www.instagram.com/jan__fran/reel/DCSv4gSy5x3/)

As Fran points out, that ABC report cast the pro-Palestinian youths as hunters and attackers and the Maccabi soccer fans as prey

It appears the story has now been taken down [Page not found - ABC News](#) (as does the YouTube version)

Hoping you can answer the following questions, with a deadline of Monday morning.

1. When did the ABC take the 7pm (9<sup>th</sup> Nov) report down?
2. Why did it do so?
3. When did the ABC become aware that the 'groups of young men' it pictured 'hunting down' and 'ambushing Israeli soccer fans' were not pro-Palestinian protesters but Maccabi fans, and that it was Israeli fans doing the 'hunting'?
4. Mazoe Ford clearly talked to Maccabi fans at Schiphol Airport on the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3HL8dX4doE> Why did she not include any pro-Palestinian protesters to get their account of what happened?
5. In the light of the critique of the ABC report by Jan Fran, does the ABC consider the report
  - (a) was an accurate account of the clashes in Amsterdam
  - (b) was fair and balanced in its language
  - (c) gave sufficient weight to the violent actions of Maccabi soccer fans?

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**Response from an ABC spokesperson:**

As the [statement on the Corrections and Clarifications](#) page says, the story filed on Saturday 9 November included agency-supplied vision that purported to show Maccabi supporters being attacked. After being informed by the agency, Reuters, that

the description of the vision was incorrect, the ABC removed the story on Friday. The ABC was one of several major international media organisations that had used the vision and subsequently removed their stories.

Otherwise the story was an accurate snapshot of the information available at that time, which was in the immediate aftermath of the events. Qualifiers such as “alleged” and “police say” were used because the information was not gathered firsthand but provided by local authorities and needed to be attributed. The reporter talked about “groups of young men” because we were unable at that early stage to verify who the attackers were. In an earlier police conference Dutch authorities had refused to comment.

When the ABC arrived at Schiphol Airport there were more than 100 Israelis at the airport waiting to go home; this was newsworthy and we included their voices in the story. This was firsthand reporting with multiple interviews. Before arriving in Amsterdam we contacted the Palestinian organising group which had been arranging the protests but received no reply before the deadline. No Palestinian reaction was issued by the agencies. The Palestinian MFA’s response was included in other reporting.

The reporting should be considered in its totality. The ABC covered this story over the course of two days on digital, video and audio platforms. The ABC was the only Australian news organisation to travel to Amsterdam to cover this story as we deemed it a significant one.